

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 06664 251123Z

11

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 SAM-01 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

L-02 H-02 PA-01 PRS-01 USIE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 INRE-00 CCO-00 OPR-02 A-01 OC-05 SY-05 /073 W

----- 061912

O 251055Z MAY 75 ZFF-6

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4492

DIA WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

CIA WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 6664

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PMIL PBOR LE IS

SUBJECT: LEBANESE-ISRAELI HOSTILITIES IN SOUTH LEBANON

REF: BEIRUT 6663

1. LEBANESE ARMY COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AROUND NOON REPORTS CLASH WITH IDF DESCRIBED REFTEL AND CONFIRMS SEVEN LEBANESE SOLDIERS KIA. COMMUNIQUE ADDS, HOWEVER, THAT FIGHTING AROUND 'AITA ASH SHA'B CONTINUES. JUST PRIOR TO THIS ANNOUNCEMENT, ARMATT LEARNED FROM LEBANESE ARMY SOURCE THAT ISRAELIS HAVE SENT MECHANIZED REINFORCEMENTS TO SCENE OF HOSTILITIES AND ARE SUPPORTING THEM WITH ARTILLERY-MORTAR FIRE AND AIR STRIKES RPT AIR STRIKES.

2. WOULD APPEAR THAT EARLIER AGREEMENT REPORTED REFTEL BROKE DOWN SOMEHOW AND THEREBY PROMPTED IDF ACTION. WE UNDERSTAND UNTSO PERSONNEL ON GROUND ARE DOING THEIR UTMOST TO HELP BRING SITUATION UNDER CONTROL.

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3. COMMENT: TRUST DEPT WILL AGREE THAT THIS UNFORTUNATE EPISODE

COULD NOT RPT NOT HAVE HAPPENED AT A WORSE TIME. CONFRONTED WITH
IDF ON LEBANESE SIDE OF BORDER AND WITH ACUTE INTERNAL POLITICAL-
CONFESSIONAL PROBLEMS ELSEWHERE IN COUNTRY (SEPTTEL), NEW LEBANESE
MILITARY GOVT HAD NO OPTION BUT TO RESIST IDF TO BEST OF ITS
ABILITY.
GODLEY

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NNN

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05 JUL 2006

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